

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2803

March 17, 2017

The Honorable John F. Kelly
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Kelly:

Following release of the President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2018, we are concerned about the proposed reduction to the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) budget. A cut of this size would not only have a significant adverse effect on our national security, but it would also impact Nevada's tourism industry, a significant economic driver in our state. We ask that you urge President Trump not to go through with cuts to TSA's budget for Fiscal Year 2018 in the final budget submission to Congress.

TSA was created immediately following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, and has been responsible for the security of billions of travelers. In 2015 alone, TSA screened 708 million passengers.^[1] Cuts to TSA will largely impact the airport screening process by increasing lines and wait times for passengers, potentially reducing the number of Americans choosing to fly for both business and vacation. All of which will erode confidence in air travel. These cuts proposed in the budget would abolish TSA grants to our state and local police departments designed to maintain airport perimeter security.^[2] Raising TSA Passenger Security Fees to try and offset these cuts is an affront to travelers, forcing them to pay more for less security.

Given that Las Vegas is one of the top tourist destinations in the world, reducing funding for TSA would put travelers and Nevadans at risk. In 2016 alone, more than 47 million people traveled through McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas.³ The tourism industry in Nevada is responsible for \$18.5 billion to our state's GDP and supports 487,500 jobs. Any instance of terrorism could have a devastating long-term impact on Nevada's economy, and reducing much needed counter terrorism funding would make the city of Las Vegas markedly less secure.

Gutting investments which effectively safeguard our nation to potentially fund an ill-conceived and inadequate wall along the southern border is contrary to the pledges President Trump has made to protect the American people. It is impossible to overstate the serious ramifications and costs associated

^[1] TSA, Factsheet.

^[2] Clark County Department of Aviation Press Release, "McCarran Served 47.4 Million Passengers in 2016." January 26, 2017.

³ Clark County Department of Aviation Press Release, "McCarran Served 47.4 Million Passengers in 2016." January 26, 2017.

⁶ Washington Post, Trump's DHS budget includes billions to build his border wall" March 16, 2017.

with such a dramatic reduction in funding for one of the most important agencies whose mission is designed to keep our nation safe.

We urge you to fight to maintain TSA's budget for Fiscal Year 2018 in the final budget submission to Congress.

Sincerely,



Jacky Rosen
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Ruben Kihuen
Member of Congress